

## 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 Parent Council Meeting - Minutes

Welcome to everyone, Gillian Lumsden stepping in as Chair.

**Present:** Gillian Lumsden, Cathleen Maguire, Nick Devison, Emma Learmont, Hazel Thurlow (HT), Elizabeth Ramsay (acting DHT)

**HT report** – overview. We have just recently had our Education Scotland inspection. Not able to share, we have seen draft report. A letter will go out to all parents/carers – strength and things to develop. It was a positive inspection. Inspectors were very complimentary. Examples of pupil participation that week were shared. Staff invited inspectors to their lessons. We now have a clear sense of where we have come from and where we are going next. Report will be shared with parents/carers soon. We will look at Maths and Numeracy throughout the summer term and finish off our writing journey too, some work with moderation and Benchmarking. We will also have our School Improvement Plan from the inspection process. HT had a ‘gut instinct’ with what we needed to focus on last time. Looking to involve parents/carers with two issues – parking (link with Community Council as well). This is an ongoing issue. Banner was made before with a picture on one side, saying ‘No Parking’. Impact of this couldn’t be measured as this was stolen. The other side could be used for PSA to promote events within the community. All stakeholders should be involved.

Parent Engagement form – involvement in the SIP, a sub-group of parents/carers. This could be about behaviour/bullying/understanding of terms used. It could perhaps look at how money is used. HT would like parents and carers to have a voice. A decision should be made by 21<sup>st</sup> June.

Physicality of the building – ongoing school improvements. Playground markings are in place now. A parent is going to donate a bike rack, one in Nursery and one in the front area. Ross Contractors have been contacted about installation.

What has still to be done?

- Garden area (stones/gravel, step in, furniture has been ordered from Shotts Prison, posts have to be sorted)
- Story telling area – steps in

- Steps in and benches the top area for children to sit at for children wanting to be away from football etc.

School paid for some of the improvements – some money was used strategically to enhance what the PSA have done too. We will purchase some goalposts for the children too.

PSA still have some money left. A suggestion was made that the basketball net could be replaced.

We were not happy with workmanship of installation of play panel boards in playground so we are withholding payment. These will be replaced. This has been arranged.

**Pupil Health (Headlice)** – brought up by a parent. There have been many instances lately, can this be addressed by the school.

There are links to NHS and guidance in newsletters, for parents and carers. This is not an area the school can address (following guidance from WLC). There are gentle reminders on the parent/carer Facebook page.

**PVG** – Parents/carers do not need to pay for this, staff now do. We would welcome any parents/carers. It may be worth doing an audit of PSA to check that these are still valid.

**Dress Down Days** – re-worded now on PSA Fliers so it is 'suggested donation' rather than a specific amount.

**Teacher pay campaign** – brief update shared following last meeting.

**New website** is now up and running – at the top of each Newsletter is the new blog and the new website address. Twitter feed is there too.

**Cleaning the playground** – Is there a need for more bins? Eco group could help with litter picking more regularly perhaps? Litter is accumulating in lots of areas of the playground. Discussion around purchasing more bins. We will ask JLT Eco group about another litter picking session, perhaps they can co-ordinate this and other groups/classes can help? Can we find out where the litter pickers are?

**Parking** – There are parents/carers leaving engines running as they are parked outside the school. This is obviously an environmental issue and should be addressed. Could another banner be created? HT/ER will contact Karen McCubbin at WLC for advice on this.

**PSA and Parent Council** – is there a possibility of them merging? Emma (PSA) can ask again at PSA about this. Is there a lack of understanding of what being on the Parent Council/PSA entails? Communication has been addressed by HT (Groupcall as preferred option, more newsletters). There was discussion around the possibility of a school Facebook page.

**Date and time of next meeting:** 3.15pm start is preferred. Possibly June 2019? Gillian can Chair if Mairi can't.